

which had to be followed by Designated TADA Courts. Lapse of erstwhile TADA does not create any difficulty in disposal of pending proceedings because of Saving Clause, Section 1 (4) of the erstwhile TADA. Pending proceedings can be disposed off as if the Act had not lapsed. However, no new case of proceeding can be instituted.

Loans to Farm Sector

5828. SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to nationalised banks for fixing the percentage of loan to be given to agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agriculture sector has received the loan from banks on the basis of fixed percentage and in accordance with its economic requirements;

(d) if so, the economic requirements of agriculture sector during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the percentage of loan provided by banks during the said period; and

(e) the additional steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the loan facility to the agriculture sector to meet the economic requirement?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The stipulated target fixed for Lending by the Commercial banks to the Agriculture Sector is 18% of Net Bank Credit.

(c) to (e) The percentage of agricultural advances to the net bank credit by the Commercial Banks during the years 1994-95 to 1996-97 are given as under:

Years	Priority Sector Lending Target for Agriculture	%age of Agricultural Advances to net Bank Credit
1994-95	18%	13.91
1995-96	18%	14.29
1996-97	18%	N.A.

To step up the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Bank for

Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken following steps:

- (i) The commercial banks have been asked to increase the credit flow to agriculture by 25% during the year 1996-97, as compared to the previous year;
- (ii) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) which are partly meeting the credit requirements of small and marginal farmers in the rural areas are being given recapitalisation support;
- (iii) Banks have been advised to set up specialised agricultural branches in each State to exclusively deal with high-tech agricultural advances;
- (iv) Banks have been advised to extend cash credit facilities for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having good track record;
- (v) With a view to improving the access of small farmers to institutional credit, NABARD has advised Co-operative banks to earmark funds in favour of small, marginal and economically weak farmers; and
- (vi) NABARD has also advised banks that the credit requirements of those small and marginal farmers (generally upto 10% and upto 20% in Eastern and North-Eastern region) should be met in full.

Godown Facilities

5829. SMT. BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAICHIKHALIA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme for wet dates (Kharek) preservation for a long time; and

(b) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for preservation of agriculture product for consumption in the country and for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) Although no specific project on preservation of dates have been taken up by this Ministry, these can be preserved by conventional methods like drying, preservation in sugar syrup and low temperature storage, etc.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries had operated various Plan Schemes in the Eighth Plan for the promotion of food processing industries, including fruits and vegetable